

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14966 201728Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 CU-05 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SWF-02 AID-20

CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 CIEP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 AEC-11 SCI-06 DRC-01 /235 W

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R 201718Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5192

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EGEN, GW

SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF THE BUNDESTAG PLENARY SESSIONS

REF: BONN 14803

1. SUMMARY: THE BUNDESTAG RESUMED PLENARY SESSIONS THIS WEEK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER DELIVERING A STATEMENT ON FOREIGN POLICY AND THE FIRST READING OF THE 1975 BUDGET. WHILE SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION IN BOTH CASES WERE NOT TERRIBLY GREAT, EACH SIDE ATTEMPTED TO MAKE POLITICAL CAPITAL WITH AN EYE ON THE OCTOBER 27 ELECTIONS IN HESSE AND BAVARIA. END SUMMARY

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PAGE 02 BONN 14966 201728Z

2. THE BONN BODY POLITIC BEGAN TO STIR THIS WEEK WITH THE RESUMPTION OF THE BUNDESTAG SESSIONS FOLLOWING THE SUMMER RECESS. IN ADDITION, FORMER CHANCELLOR BRANDT, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND GUENTHER NOLLAU, PRESIDENT OF THE OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION, APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR (TO BE THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE TELEGRAM).

3. GENSCHER'S FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT (REFTEL) AND THE FIRST READING OF THE GOVERNMENT'S 1975 BUDGET SEPTEMBER 19-20 SERVED AS THE VEHICLE FOR THE RESUMPTION OF ACTIVE POLITICAL LIFE IN BONN FOLLOWING THE SUMMER RECESS. IT WAS APPARENT DURING THE DEBATES THAT BOTH THE SOCIAL-LIBERAL COALITION AND THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION HAD AN EYE ON THE UPCOMING LAENDER ELECTIONS IN HESSE AND BAVARIA . WHILE THERE WAS NOT GREAT SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION, THEY BOTH ATTEMPTED TO SCORE POLITICAL POINTS DURING THE DEBATES. IN THE CASE OF THE GENSCHER SPEECH, THE CDU HAD SOME PROBLEMS IN DOING SO BECAUSE GENSCHER RESTRICTED HIS SPEECH TO REPORTING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND REPEATING GOVERNMENT POLICY. THE CDU/CSU FRAKTION FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN MARX TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE HIS FRAKTION DECIDED NOT TO MAKE AN ALLOUT, FRONTAL ATTACK ON GENSCHER'S SPEECH BUT TO CONCENTRATE ON A FEW AREAS, SUCH AS THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE IN BERLIN.

4. THE GOVERNMENT'S 1975 AUSTERITY BUDGET ALSO PROVIDED A RATHER SMALL TARGET FOR THE OPPOSITION. FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS AS PRIMARY SPOKESMAN ON BUDGET MATTERS FOR THE OPPOSITION DEVOTED MOST OF HIS ATTACK TO THE TARDINESS OF THE SPD-FDP AUSTERITY APPROACH AND TO REMINDING THE SPD OF PREVIOUS CRITICISM OF THE CDU, ESPECIALLY DURING THE 1966-67 RECESSION PERIOD WHEN BOTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 14966 201728Z

LOWER THAN NOW. THE GOVERNMENT PREDICTEDLY COUNTERED WITH THE DEFENSE THAT (A) WEST GERMANY WAS BETTER OFF THAN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES AT THE PRESENT TIME AND (B) THE CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WERE CAUSED MAINLY BY FORCES (E.G., INFLATIONARY INCREASE IN RAW MATERIAL PRICES) THAT WERE BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE 1975 BUDGET HAS BEEN REFERRED TO COMMITTEE AND THE NEXT READING IS EXPECTED IN

JANUARY.

COMMENT: AN INDICATION OF THE OPPOSITION'S DILEMMA
IS THAT BOTH STRAUSS' AND CARSTENS' SPEECH ON THE
BUDGET AND MARX'S SPEECH ON FOREIGN POLICY WERE
RELATIVELY MILD AND THE DEBATE WAS POORLY ATTENDED.
HILLENBRAND

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